

Listing and Amendment of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for performing digital recording and playback~~, comprising steps of:

enabling a user to select a recording title stored on a digital storage medium in a first program chain for password protection;

receiving a password from said user for said selected recording title;

storing said password on said digital storage medium in ~~a same~~ said first program chain as with said selected recording title; and

~~requiring said password to be input before playing back said selected recording title~~

storing menu data representing a password menu screen on said digital storage medium in a second program chain different from said first program chain.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said digital storage medium is a DVD.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the a step of ~~storing menu data representing a password menu screen~~ at least one command on said digital storage medium in said first program chain.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said ~~menu data is stored in a different program chain than said password and said selected program title~~ at least one command causes said password menu screen to be displayed if playback of said selected recording title is attempted.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein said first and second program chains are according to DVD specifications.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, ~~further comprising the step of storing at least one command on said digital storage medium that enables display of said password menu screen wherein said at least one command includes a PRE command according to DVD specifications.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, ~~wherein said password menu screen is displayed responsive to a user's attempt to playback further comprising a step of requiring said password to be input before playing back said selected recording title.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A digital recording and playback apparatus, comprising:
interface means for interfacing said digital recording and playback apparatus with a digital storage medium; and

control means for enabling a user to select a recording title stored on said digital storage medium in a first program chain for password protection, receiving a password from said user for said selected recording title, ~~and~~ causing said password to be stored on said digital storage medium ~~in a same said first program chain as with~~ said selected recording title, and causing menu data representing a password menu screen to be stored on said digital storage medium in a second program chain different from said first program chain.

9. (Previously Presented) The digital recording and playback apparatus of claim 8, wherein said digital storage medium is a DVD.

10. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus of claim 8, wherein said control means further causes ~~menu data representing a password menu screen~~ at least one command to be stored on said digital storage medium in said first program chain.

11. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus of claim 10, wherein ~~said menu data is stored in a different program chain than said password~~

~~and said selected program title at least one command causes said password menu screen to be displayed if playback of said selected recording title is attempted.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus of claim [[11]] 8, wherein said first and second program chains are according to DVD specifications.

13. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus of claim 10, wherein said ~~control means further causes at least one command that enables display of said password menu screen to be stored on said digital storage medium at least one command includes a plurality of commands.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus of claim 13, wherein said ~~control means enables display of said password menu screen responsive to a user's attempt to playback said selected recording title~~ plurality of commands comprise PRE commands according to DVD specifications.

15. (Currently Amended) The digital recording and playback apparatus of claim [[14]] 11, wherein said control means further requires said password to be input responsive to said password menu screen before playing back said selected recording title.

16. (Currently Amended) A digital storage medium, comprising:
a plurality of reserved data fields; and
~~a plurality of unreserved data fields including a first program chain for a recording title selected by a user; and~~

wherein said data fields comprise a first program chain further includes for storing a selected recording title and a user-assigned password for said selected recording title, and ~~input of said user-assigned password is required before playing back said selected recording title~~ a second program chain different from said first program chain for storing menu data representing a password menu screen.

17. (Previously Presented) The digital storage medium of claim 16, wherein said digital storage medium is a DVD.

18. (Currently Amended) The digital storage medium of claim 16, ~~further comprising a second program chain for a password menu screen~~ wherein said first program chain also stores at least one command.

19. (Currently Amended) The digital storage medium of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16, wherein said first and second program chains are according to DVD specifications.

20. (Currently Amended) The digital storage medium of claim 18, wherein said ~~password menu screen prompts input of said user-assigned password and is displayed responsive to an attempt to playback said selected recording title~~ at least one command causes said password menu screen to be displayed if playback of said selected recording title is attempted, and input of said user-assigned password is required before playing back said selected recording title.